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THE GREAT COMMUNICATOR

A woman in a brown long-sleeved shirt, camouflage pants, and a blue bandana is crouching on a ship's deck. She is wearing blue gloves and black boots. She is looking off to the side with a serious expression. In the background, there are large metal chains hanging from above. The ocean is visible in the distance.

Celebrating Women



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Splicing the line

Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Jayson Hanna from Seattle splices a mooring line on the fantail aboard USS Ronald CVN 76. Reagan is deployed as part of a routine rotation of U.S. maritime forces in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, as well as conducting Maritime Security Operations (MSO) in the region.

Photo by PHAA Benjamin Brossard

On the front cover



Photo by:
PHAN (AW)
Christine Singh

After completing a wash down of an F/A-18E Super Hornet assigned to the "Eagles" of Fighter Attack Squadron One One Five (VEA-115) Airman Yina Arias from New York City rolls up a water hose for stowage on board USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). The Reagan Strike Group Diversity Committee sponsored an event March 29 celebrating Women's History Month.

This newspaper is an authorized publication for military members on board USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). Contents of The Great Communicator are not the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the United States Navy.

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Reagan Sailors honor women in history

By PHAN (AW) Christine Singh

Staff Writer

Sailors aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) joined together March 29 to celebrate the many accomplishments of women in both the military and American society during a special Women's History Month celebration sponsored by the Ronald Reagan Strike Group Diversity Committee.

Reagan's month-long recognition of women throughout

history culminated in the final event in the ship's hangar bay. The program was attended by hundreds of Reagan Sailors and included speeches, poetry and "Who am I?" skits.

"We started by putting a note in the Plan of the Day (POD) every day," said Senior Chief Quartermaster Nelfreed McKay, the primary advisor for the diversity committee. "They were just short little history notes about the importance of women throughout

history both civilian and military."

According to McKay, whether the history being exposed to the crew is a civilian or military one, the importance is that everyone aboard comes to an understanding about history's influence.

"One of the major goals of diversity committee is to learn about each other and ourselves. It gives us an opportunity to learn about people, culture, experiences and creativity," said McKay. "And women's history is our history, so it's something we

can all embrace."

One of the ways that diversity committee—made up of volunteers from various departments—planned to reach the crew during the event, according to Chief Information Systems Technician Christopher Culp from Training Division—was by reading poems at the ceremony.

"I read a poem written by Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Maribel Talley that was dedicated to the importance of mothers in

Women... Cont. on page 4

Navy/Marine Corps relief drive kick-off scheduled April 1

By PHAN Thomas Kuhl

Staff Writer

USS Ronald Reagan's (CVN 76) official Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) fund drive is scheduled to begin April 3.

NMCRS is a non-profit charitable organization specifically designed to help Sailors and their families in a time of need. They accomplish this task by offering interest free loans and grants to Sailors and their families to help with essentials such as food, rent and urgent car repairs.

"The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society needs your support to continue to take care of our own. One hundred percent of the charity's overhead expenses are covered by proceeds from the Reserve Fund established during World War II," said Lt. John Brabazon, NMCRS fund drive coordinator. "Every penny of your donation goes directly into the pockets of Sailors and Marines who need financial assistance."

Sailors can donate to the NMCRS in the form of cash, a Navy Cash chip-to-chip transfer, or even check, but the most preferred form of donation is by direct allotment.

"The theme for this year's fund drive is 'High Five for Navy Relief,'" said Brabazon. "We want people to consider a monthly allotment of five dollars. That's ten sodas a month."

According to Brabazon, in 2005, Reagan Sailors contributed over \$90,000 to NMCRS and they received over \$215,000 in loans and grants.

"Last year Reagan Sailors received \$201,350 in interest-free loans and \$14,077 in grants," said Brabazon. "I would like to see NMCRS supported at the level that they supported Reagan."

"Team Navy Relief" will be on the aft mess

Navy relief... Cont. on page 7

Underway replenishment



PHAN (AW) Kathleen Gorby

An SH-60S Seahawk helicopter assigned to the "Blackjacks" of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Two One (HSC-21) descends on the flight deck of USNS Rainer (T-AOE 7) so that two Sailor can attach a cargo net full of boxes for USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) during a replenishment at sea (RAS). The RAS was conducted March 28 to re-supply Reagan with fuel, food, and deliver mail.

InsiderdotCom

World photos

www.worldphotos.com

Worldphotos.com contains photos, and stories to go along with them, from each of the United States, cities within those states and every other country on the globe. First choose the state, city or country you wish to view then choose from a list of stories about what's going on in that particular area of the world. The site is updated constantly in order to keep you up to date everyday. You can either read the story or click on the photos tab under the story to view them. So don't just read about what's going on in the world, see it first at worldphotos.com.

Revolutionize

www.worldrevolution.org

Worldrevolution.org is an idea for a new, global activist social movement for progressive social change. It aims to resolve in a definitive and comprehensive manner the major social problems of our world and our era. Major issue areas of the World Revolution include: peace, human rights, the environment, and world poverty. Did you know that one in twelve of the world's children are forced into the worst forms of child labor or how millions in the Horn of Africa are on the brink of starvation? This website can give you a lot of insight on how the grass isn't greener on the other side.

This Day in History

1973 Mississippi river reaches peak flood level

The Mississippi River reaches its peak level in St. Louis during a record 77-day flood. During the extended flood, 33 people died and more than \$1 billion in damages were incurred.

1970 Discrimination banned in Hollywood

In response to government scrutiny of Hollywood hiring practices, studios agree on this day in 1970 to increase minority employment and adopt an equal-opportunity employment agreement.

Women

Continued from page 3

our lives," said Hull Technician 1st Class James Armijo, a participant in the diversity committee.

"I wanted to be involved in the ceremony and when I found out what the poem was about I volunteered to read. Mothers are a big part of our lives and the job they have is a hard one," said Armijo.

According to Culp, understanding the role that women play historically and currently is an important one to share with the crew.

"Events like this are really good for the crew," said Culp. "Every year, the number of women on board ships increases. When I was on the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in 1998, there were roughly about 200 women on board. This year, on board the Reagan, we have about 600—the most a ship's ever had."

The role of diversity committee is to be inclusive, according to Culp.

"It's difficult to find a time and location to do events like these when were out here floating in the middle of the ocean," said Culp. "But we usually try to have an event about once a month."

"Last year our feature guest speaker was a local anchorwoman for San Diego who spoke about the lack of inspiration she had growing up, from all the people who didn't think a woman could be a journalist, but also how meeting Connie Chung and seeing that a woman could become a successful journalist influenced her to achieve her own goals in that field," said McKay.

"Yet on the other end of the spectrum, our own Command Master Chief last year, Kathy Hansen also spoke, incorporating a military aspect into the event that Sailors were able to relate to on another level," said McKay.

"Last month we celebrated African-American History Month and in April we will be commemorate the Holocaust Day of Remembrance, which I think will have a good turnout as I think the word's gotten out about our monthly events," said Culp.

WANTED CAPTIONS



Calling all comedians! So you think you're pretty funny, huh? Come up with an amusing, *appropriate* caption for this photo and send it to sennsd@cvn76.navy.mil with "Caption Contest" in the subject line. The winning caption will be posted in the next issue.

LAST ISSUE'S WINNERS

FIRST

I know the ship is low on water, but doing my laundry like this is going to kill me.

ATCS (AW/SW) Terrence McClain
AIMD/IM3

SECOND

Really guys, I don't think this was worth it just to get in the caption contest.

ET2 Scott Trantham
GSD/CS-3



THIRD

No Submissions



17th Annual Women in Aviation International Conference Held in Nashville

By Marine Cpl.
Esther Greene,

Navy News Service

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

(NNS) -- More than 200 military female aviators and air crewmen attended the 17th Annual Women in Aviation International Conference at the Opryland Convention Center here March 23-25.

This year's theme, "How to Reach New Heights of Success," was highlighted by exhibitions, workshops, educational sessions, and a wide range of guest speakers, who told the attendees about their experiences in the aviation and aerospace industry, and all the opportunities that were available for women in the aviation career field.

Navy EO Office Accepting Service Award Nominations

By JO3 Chris M. Hwang,
Navy Personnel Command
Communications Office

MILLINGTON, Tenn.

(NNS) -- The Navy Equal Opportunity (EO) Office

is accepting nominations for the Roy Wilkins Renowned Service Award.

Nominations are due to the EO Office no later than May 18.

This annual award is given to a military member or Department of Defense civilian employee who has made a distinguished and a significant contribution to the country in the area of civil or human rights, race relations, equal opportunity, affirmative action, human resources and/or public service.

Midshipmen Visit the Holy Land

By Midshipman 1st Class
Gen Studer, U.S. Naval
Academy Public Affairs

ANNAPOLIS, Md.

(NNS) -- Nearly 40 U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen explored the living relationships between faith, friendship, history and political strife during an intense visit to Israel March 9-19.

Spearheaded by Naval Academy Rabbi, Cmdr. Irving Elson, the trip included camel rides in the Negev desert, a jeep tour of the Golan Heights, Catholic Mass inside the Holy Sepulcher, and Shabbat at the Western Wall.

Naval Academy Breaks Ground on Wesley Brown Field House

By JO2 Matt Jarvis, U.S.

Naval Academy

Public Affairs

ANNAPOLIS, Md.

(NNS) -- The U.S. Naval Academy honored one of its pioneers with the March 25 groundbreaking of the Wesley Brown Field House, a 140,000 square-foot athletic facility named for the Academy's first African American graduate.

Lt. Cmdr. Wesley A. Brown was the sixth African American to enter the Naval Academy, and in 1949, he became the Academy's first African American graduate.

Naval Base Point Loma Tackles Fuel Cleanup, Residents' Concerns

By JO3 S. C. Irwin,
Fleet Public Affairs

Center, Pacific

POINT LOMA, Calif.

(NNS) -- Navy officials participated in a town hall meeting March 20 to inform Point Loma residents how the Navy plans to cleanup 500,000 to 1.5 million gallons of fuel that seeped into the ground beneath a

fuel depot.

Since 1999, a significant amount of JP-5 and marine diesel fuel has seeped from three steel tanks at Naval Base Point Loma (NBPL), forming a plume on top of the water table nearly 50 feet underground.

The tanks are located aboveground in an area of the base designated as the Defense Fuel Support Point, which provides Defense Energy Support Center fuel to all local and surrounding military bases via pipeline networks, tankers and vessels. The fuel leaked through small holes that developed in the bottom of tanks that are more than 70 years old.

Navy Cargo Handlers Preparing for Pre- deployment

By Lt. Karin R. Burzynski,
Naval Expeditionary

Logistics Support Force

Public Affairs

WILLIAMSBURG,

Va. (NNS) -- About 260 Sailors reported for duty March 20 and are currently participating in pre-deployment training at the Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group headquarters in Williamsburg, Va.

Upon completion of training, they will deploy

to the Middle East as part of Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group Forward Headquarters/Delta to perform a cargo-handling mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sailors Invited To Give Opinion On Navy Life

By Sharon Anderson, Chief
of Naval Personnel
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON

(NNS) -- The Chief of Naval Personnel is sending letters to 16,000 randomly selected Sailors inviting them to participate in the 2006 Quality of Life (QOL) Survey.

The survey is used to collect data on personal issues that matter most to Sailors - shipboard life, housing, standards of living, community support, health care, and Sailor preparedness concerns.

The survey is 30 percent shorter than the 2002 QOL survey, the last time the survey was taken, and for the first time is being conducted on the Internet. Sailors are asked to request assistance from their chain of command if they need help in getting Web access. To complete the entire survey should take about 20-30 minutes. Participation is entirely voluntary and confidential.

READER'S CHOICE

**What boosts
your morale?**



AN Linda Gambrell

"Looking at pictures of my mom and niece."



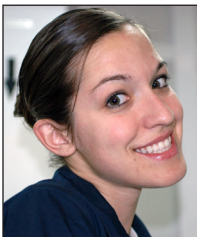
AOC (SW/AW) Eric McWright

"My daughters."



FC2 (SW/AW) Elias Espino

"I play soccer in the hangar bay every night for two hours."



PHAN (AW) Kathleen Gorby

"Reading books and working out."

Reagan Idol Update

by LTB Annie Turner

The competition heated up this week on SITE TV as eight of the contestants were forced to say goodbye to their dream of being the first Reagan Idol, leaving us with only twelve participants going through to the next round.

As the unlucky contestants were voted out of the contest, the remaining hopefuls tried to forget that next week it could be them, leaving with nothing more than a memory. Once again each took to the stage courageously belting out their chosen song, knowing that even the slightest mistake could cost them the competition.

As the competition progresses, we can be sure of only one thing. Things are only going to get tougher. Next week will see the demise of a further two contestants and the music variety will be narrowed down considerably. How will the competitors fair with the added pressure? Next week might be the week when we begin find out who really has what it takes to be the first Reagan Idol.

Remember it is not too late to vote for your favorite. If you missed the show last night or you just want to see it again, you can catch it playing on channel 12 to get yourself up to date. Voting closes on Sunday.

Today's Movies

Ch. 2 - Indiana Jones: Last Crusade
Ch. 3 - Raise Your Voice
Ch. 4 - Wall Street
Ch. 5 - Be Cool

Ch. 2 - Constantine
Ch. 3 - The Upside of Anger
Ch. 4 - The Bad News Bears
Ch. 5 - Prime

Tomorrow's Movies

Ch. 2 - The Gospel
Ch. 3 - The Man From Elysian Fields
Ch. 4 - Queen of the Damned
Ch. 5 - Friday

Ch. 2 - Pride and Prejudice
Ch. 3 - Brown Sugar
Ch. 4 - Legally Blonde
Ch. 5 - We Were Soldiers

Sempertoons by Charles Wolf



Private Murphy by Mark Baker



Just for Laughs

Comics provided by
Military.com

Ricky's Tour by Mike Jones



Navy Relief—

Continued from page 3

decks next to Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Jim DeLozier's office to accept donations from April 3 until April 13.

"As an incentive, we will be holding live drawings on SITE TV throughout the drive," said Brabazon. "Some of the prizes will be \$250 Navy Exchange gift cards and stateroom stays."

For every five dollars allotted per month, participants will receive ten tickets. They will also receive one ticket for every ten dollars donated through cash or chip.

"Team Navy Relief" will also be auctioning off "Khaki Spirit Day." For bids of five dollar increments, Sailors can nominate a chief or officer in their department to take their Spirit station for one day.

"We are looking forward to helping educate the ship on the programs NMCRS offers our Sailors," said Brabazon. "Hopefully we can get 100 percent contact and continue to take care of our own."

Replenishment at sea



PHAN (AW) Kathleen Gorby

Sailors secure a triwall for elevation to the mezzanine in the hangar bay on board USS Ronald (CVN 76) during a replenishment at sea (RAS) Mar. 28.



Department:

Air

Job Title: Filter
Operator

**Where are
you from?**

Victoria, Texas

**What inspires
you?** My
parents

**Why did you
join the Navy?**

Travel and
education

**Who is
responsible
for your
success?** God

and my father

**What piece of
advice would
you pass on
to others?**

Never quit



AR Christopher Mejia

March 28, 2006



CS3 Jorge Garcia

March 29, 2006

Department:

HS-4

Job Title: None
**Where are
you from?**

Tampa, Fla.

**What inspires
you?** Reading
the Bible

**Why did you
join the Navy?**

Travel and
education

**Who is
responsible
for your
success?** Hard
work

**What piece of
advice would
you pass on
to others?**

Don't give up on
your goals



Be a good Shipmate and conserve potable water